



CITY OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA

THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
815 WASHINGTON STREET
READING, PA 19601-3690
(610) 655-6204
WWW.READINGPA.GOV

MEDIA ADVISORY
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Contact: Frank Denbowski
610-655-6320

Mayor McMahon Announces City Receives New Grant; Focus is on Neighborhoods Near GoggleWorks

READING, PA – Reading Mayor Thomas M. McMahon today announced that the City of Reading has been awarded \$750,000 to promote economic development in the City's emerging arts district.

The grant was awarded through the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The initiative is designed to assist cities redevelop idled and underused industrial and commercial facilities in areas where there may be environmental contamination.

"We are pleased that the City of Reading won another competitive grant," the Mayor said. "In addition to assisting with planning in the arts district, winning this grant also means that HUD will provide a minimum of \$1.5 million in loan guarantees to further stimulate targeted private-sector economic development."

An emerging focus of the Mayor is to stimulate redevelopment in neighborhoods around the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, Second and Washington Streets. The GoggleWorks Apartments, with 59 units, is planned for that intersection, and tenants are being sought for retail space in the Boscov Plaza parking garage across the street. Other entertainment-oriented assets in the immediate area includes the Movies 11 Theatre and Imax, and the Miller Center for the Performing Arts at Second and Penn.

"We envision a vibrant and eclectic community, making the area attractive for artists to live, and encouraging an abundance of art studios," the Mayor said. "By focusing planning and resources in a cohesive way, we can help bring this vision into reality, not in a contrived way, but through an authentic process of neighborhood evolution."

For more information on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Neighborhood Stabilization Program visit www.hud.gov.

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FAX: (610) 655-6697 TDD: (610) 655-6442